

Message Text

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TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, OCT. 14

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

1. KALB REPORTS ON RADIO FROM CAIRO AND DAMASCUS:
A. CBS RADIO-CAIRO: ACCORDING TO A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL KING FAISAL TOLD KISSINGER FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL WORK WITH OTHER OIL PRODUCING NATIONS TO LOWER OIL PRICES -- NO TIME FRAME WAS PUT ON THIS EFFORT, IT MAY TAKE MONTHS IF IT SUCCEEDS AT ALL, BUT NEVER BEFORE HAD THE KING PERSONALLY COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THIS GOAL. KISSINGER ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM RYAD CALLED THE KING'S POLICY ENLIGHTENED AND CONSTRUCTIVE, THE KING'S FM THEN ADDED, THAT HE HOPED AND PRAYED OTHER OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WOULD, AS HE PUT IT, COME AROUND TO EMULATING THE POLICY OF SAUDI ARABIA. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE KING IS SENDING A LETTER TO THE SHAH OF IRAN URGING HIM TO CONSIDER JOINT ACTION IN HOLDING PRICES AT CURRENT LEVELS AND THEN LOWERING THEM. KISSINGER FLEW INTO RYAD EXPECTING TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO A COURSE OF LOWERING PRICES.
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IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT FAISAL'S EFFORT WILL GO STEP BY STEP WITH KISSINGER'S SUCCESS IN PERSUADING THE ISRAELIS TO PULL PACK FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LAND.

B. CBS RADIO-DAMASCUS: KISSINGER RETURNED TO DAMASCUS FOR

THE SECOND TIME IN A WEEK, HIS AIM TO URGE THE SYRIANS TO BE PATIENT. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PARTY TO THE NEXT PHASE OF THE ME NEGOTIATION. EGYPT, JORDAN, AND ISRAEL WILL BE, AND WITH ALL THREE COUNTRIES KISSINGER HAS NOT REACHED THE BASIC KIND OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT COMES NEXT AND WHEN. NOTHING CAN BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL AFTER THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING WHICH OPENS OCTOBER 26TH IN MOROCCO. IF THE ARAB MODERATES GET THEIR WAY, WHICH IS LIKELY, THEN THE NEGOTIATION CAN PROBABLY START BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. KISSINGER ANNOUNCED IN CAIRO EARLIER TODAY THAT HE WILL BE RETURNING TO THIS AREA IN EARLY NOVEMBER TO NAIL THE WHOLE DEAL DOWN. HE HAS ONE OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT EXTRACTING FAISAL'S PERSONAL PLEDGE LAST NIGHT IN RYAD, THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL

WORK WITH OTHER OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS IN A NEW EFFORT TO LOWER OIL PRICES. NOTHING IS ASSURED BUT THIS REAL PLEDGE BACKED BY MILLIONS OF PETRO DOLLARS HAS CONSIDERABLE CLOUT.

2. WASHPOST-BERGER, FRONT PAGE REPORTING FROM CAIRO; HEADLINED "SAUDIS PLEDGE BID TO LOWER PRICES ON OIL" : REPORTS SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID FAISAL TOLD HAK SAUDIS WILL TAKE UP EFFORT TO LOWER PRICE OF OIL IN CONCERT WITH OTHER EXPORTING NATIONS. THE OFFICIAL SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME FAISAL HIMSELF ENDORSED THIS POLICY TO A US OFFICIAL. PRIOR TO RIYADH ARRIVAL REPORTERS WERE TOLD HAK PLANNED TO STRESS THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S SELF-INTEREST DICTATES GREATER COOPERATION WITH CONSUMERS. ALTHOUGH FAISAL'S STATEMENT COULD BE IMPORTANT STEP IN

REDUCTION OF OIL PRICES, SENIOR US OFFICIALS BELIEVE ALGERIAN SUPPORT IS VITAL IN ANY MOVE TO CUT PRICES SINCE ALGERIA LEADS RADICAL ARAB STATES. REPORTERS WERE TOLD HAK DOES NOT EXPECT LOWERING OF PRICES BEFORE MARCH, UNCLASSIFIED

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AT WHICH TIME COMSUMERS MAY HAVE DEVELOPED COOPERATIVE POLICY. FOLLOWING HAK/FAISAL MEETING, REPORTERS WERE TOLD HAK FEELS KING SHARES HAK'S ANALYSIS OF ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR ME WITHOUT OIL PRICE RELIEF.

ON ME PEACE EFFORTS, REPORTERS WERE TOLD HAK CONSIDERS

SAUDI SUPPORT ESSENTIAL. DESPITE HAK'S EFFORTS TO KEEP ISSUES SEPARATE, ME TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT AND OIL PRICE CRISIS HAVE BECOME LINKED.

ON AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES WITH ISRAEL, BERGER SAYS NO DETAILS REACHED AND US OFFICIALS VAGUE AS TO WHETHER

TIMING AND PROCEDURES WORKED OUT FOR NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HOPE THEY'LL BEGIN BY END OF YEAR. SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID HAK REMARKS ABOUT AGREEMENT INTENDED TO CONVINCE ARABS ISRAEL PREPARED TO MOVE TO NEXT STEP OF NEGOTIATIONS. SENIOR OFFICIAL ALSO SAID HAK NOT ENDORSING NONBELLIGERENCY AGREEMENT THAT ISRAEL DEMANDING. US ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICIAL IS THAT WAR IS NOT IMMINENT IN ME, BUT DANGER ALWAYS EXISTS; HAK HOPES TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT BY SPRING. (PHOTO OF HAK & FAISAL ACCOMPANIES REST OF ARTICLE ON PAGE 20.)

3. NYTIMES-GWERTZMAN FRONT PAGE : REPORTS FROM RIYADH THAT HAK OBTAINS ACCORD IN ISRAEL ON MIDEAST PLAN. HAK ANNOUNCED AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT "WE AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES THAT MIGHT BE FOLLOWED" BUT NO FURTHER DETAILS PROVIDED. REPORTERS ON THE PLANE WERE TOLD THE PRINCIPLES PROVIDE THAT ANY EGYPT/ISRAEL OR JORDAN/ISRAEL AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE FURTHER TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS BY ISRAEL TO THE ARABS IN RETURN FOR ARAB POLITICAL MOVES TO IMPROVE ISRAEL'S SECURITY. REPORTERS ON PLANE TOLD THAT HAK, BY ASSERTING THAT AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES REACHED, DOES NOT ACCEPT OR ENDORSE CONCEPT OF NONBELLIGERENCY. BUT HE IS SEEKING ARAB CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD MEET ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT GOTTEN INTO SUCH DETAIL YET. HAK PUBLIC DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO REMOVE ARAB DOUBTS THAT ISRAEL READY FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH HAK "ENCOURAGED" BY PROGRESS SO FAR THIS TRIP, REPORTERS TOLD ARAB SITUATION MORE COMPLICATED THAN HAK EXPECTED, AND ANY ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEXT STAGE OF TALKS WOULD COME AFTER ARAB SUMMIT. GWERTZMAN SAYS HAK CONTEMPLATING RETURN TO ME IN EARLY NOVEMBER. ADDS THAT HAK SUBJECT OF DEMONSTRATIONS DURING STAY IN ISRAEL BY RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

NON-BYLINED COMPANION PIECE DATELINED CAIRO DISCUSSES FAISAL ASSURANCE THAT SAUDIS WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO CUT OIL PRICES. SAYS KING AUTHORIZED HAK TO SAY HE WOULD TAKE "CONSTRUCTIVE" STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION. BUT REPORTERS WERE CAUTIONED THAT SAUDIS WOULD NOT

CUT PRICES INDEPENDENTLY; ONLY USE INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO DO SO. NEWSMEN WERE PERMITTED TO ATTEND BEGINNING OF HAK/FAISAL MEETING WHERE REVIEW OF ME PEACE EFFORTS WERE DISCUSSED, ALONG WITH US/SAUDI RELATIONS, US CONCERN ABOUT OIL AND STATE OF WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING FAISAL

SUGGESTED THAT HAK PUBLICLY DISCUSS SAUDI ARABIA'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD OIL SITUATION. US OFFICIALS SAY THIS INDICATES PROGRESS IN PRICE-CUT EFFORT AND HOPE KING'S INTERVENTION WILL AT LEAST KEEP PRICES STABLE.

4. AP-SCHWEID FROM DAMASCUS: REPORTS THAT HAK GOT SADAT'S ASSURANCE HE WILL TAKE INITIATIVE TO GET SUPPORT OF ARAB SUMMIT FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, AND SAYS SADAT SEEMED TO BE "WALKING ON EGGS." REPORTS THAT HAK ANNOUNCED RETURN TO MIDEAST FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

5. UPI-BARTON REPORTS FROM CAIRO: THAT HAK HAS SEEN "POSITIVE INDICATIONS" OF POSSIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN ME AND ANNOUNCED RETURN TO AREA NEXT MONTH, WHEN "WE WILL ASSESS PROGRESS MADE TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE BASIS." ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, REPORTS HAK SAID THAT WE BELIEVE WEST BANK NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY JORDAN AND ISRAEL. UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID HAK INDICATED SADAT WOULD VISIT US EARLY NEXT YEAR.

6. REUTERS-NELSON REPORTING FROM DAMASCUS: SAYS HAK FOUND "POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING SIGNS" ON HIS ME TRIP AND WILL BE RETURNING TO THE REGION EARLY NEXT MONTH, TO "SEE WHAT CONCRETE EXPRESSION CAN BE GIVEN TO THIS SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE ME." ON PLANE FROM CAIRO TO DAMASCUS, SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID POLITICAL TENSIONS IN ME COULD THREATEN TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH ISRAEL, EGYPT AND JORDAN, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE FEAR OF RENEWAL OF WAR. EGYPT WAS REPORTED TO BE RELUCTANT TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FOR FEAR IT WOULD PUT THEM TOO FAR AHEAD OF OTHER ARAB STATES, BUT SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID EACH SIDE NOW UNDERSTANDS THE OTHER'S NEEDS AND PROBLEMS. SAYS US HOPE IS THAT TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WILL NOT FALL APART BEFORE OR DURING ARAB SUMMIT. HOPEFUL SIGN SEEN BY US OFFICIAL IS OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL, TO TAKE PLACE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS.

7. DUE TO HOLIDAY, WALL STREET JOURNAL AND CHI TRIBUNE UNAVAILABLE.

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